the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes in the targeted districts of the country, by the end of the 11th Plan *i.e.* 2011-2012.

To increase the production of pulses, a centrally sponsored "Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is also under implementation with effect from 01.04.2004 in 14 major pulses growing States in the country. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation and certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals and equipments, weedicides, distribution of sprinkler sets, water carrying pipes and training to encourage farmers to grow these crops.

Central assistance for relief

2036.SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has submitted two memoranda in September this year for Central assistance for drought relief and for relief and emergent work necessitated due to floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon and by when the Central assistance is likely to be released and how much in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In September, 2008, the Government of Karnataka submitted a Memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 2019.55 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and 8.45 lakh MTs of foodgrains, for drought relief. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 15th to 18th October, 2008 for assessment of the situation and requirements of Central assistance etc. Further action will be taken in accordance with the procedure in vogue.

Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned with matters relating to floods and necessary information is being collected from them.

Shrinking agricultural land

2037.SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to enact a law to protect the shrinking agricultural land in the country especially due to industrialization and acquisition of land for Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the shrinking cultivable land could lead to heavy shortage of foodgrains thereby threatening food security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land falls under the purview of State Government, therefore, it for the States to bring suitable legislation to protect the diversion of

cultivable land for non agricultural purposes including Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Land for SEZs is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) Though, there has been an increase in land under non agricultural uses yet, the "net sown area" in the country has remained approximately the same *i.e.* 141 million ha due to various interventions made by the Government.

Crop insurance for farmers

2038.PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide crop insurance for farmers dealing in tea, coffee, rubber, tobacco and spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have been asked to share the insurance premium for farmers benefiting from the scheme; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposed scheme is to cover growers of rubber, tobacco and spices with land holding up to 10 hectares and growers of tea and cardamom, with a land holding between 10-50 hectares. The farmers will be required to become a member of Price Stabilisation Fund Trust (PSFT) by paying a membership fee. The scheme is proposed to be implemented by the respective Commodity Board alongwith PSFT as the nodal agency in the Department of Commerce and by the Consortium of Insurance Companies.

(c) and (d) A Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted by the Government to consider the proposal on Crop Insurance Scheme for Tea, Rubber, Tobacco and Spices decided in its meeting held on 5th November, 2008 to discuss the issue of sharing premium subsidy between the Centre and the State Governments in the meeting of Chief Ministers of States. The reactions of the States would be known after the meeting of Chief Ministers of States.

Foodgrains production

2039.SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice, wheat and pulses produced in the country during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) whether this quantity is expected to increase during the year 2008-09; and

(c) the reasons for and efforts to back the expectations to turn into reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The quantities of rice, wheat and pulses produced in the country from 2005-06 to 2007-08 are indicated in the table below: